

Title IID Grantee Web Information

Project Name: Enhancing Education through Technology Grant	District: Painted Desert Demo. Projects Star School
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**Project URL: www.starschool.org

Brief Description of the grant: (No more than 2 – 3 paragraphs)

This project provides for educational technology at the STAR School, a small charter school serving primarily Navajo students in grades K-8. Our very rural school operates on solar panels, cellphones, and satellite Internet service. We have had a commitment to using technology from the beginning (2001), but have been plagued by technological malfunctions and service delays. This grant will allow us to fill in missing pieces, pay for staff to keep our systems operating, and provide professional training to ensure that our use of technology actually improves student performance.

Although academic achievement in our area has lagged far below state and national averages, we are seeing tremendous improvement among our students, especially in the early grades. Our 2nd grade standardized test averages have improved from the 18th percentile in 2003 to the 91st percentile overall in 2005, through close individual attention, effective methods, and relentless high expectations. But our older students have a lot of ground to make up and discouragement to overcome. We hope that technology will be the key that helps some of them re-engage with the educational process.

We also are in the process of providing training and equipment to our whole community. This includes refurbishing used computers, holding workshops for parents, and giving the computers to families once they know how to put them to good use. The grant helps to pay for staff to carry out these projects.

Description of Professional Development Activities (25% of grant is for Professional Development):

We will maximize our limited funds by taking advantage of training provided by our regional technology support team. This training will take place during Friday afternoons and Saturday staff development sessions. We will send teaching staff to the AzTEA conference series and hold follow-up training sessions to share and implement what we learn. We will also participate in ASSET and online professional development opportunities.

of Schools Impacted by Grant: 1

of Teachers Impacted by Grant: 8

Math Initiative Focus: Teachers have already attended math conferences and trainings over the summer, and are using weekly staff development sessions to focus on the teaching of math. Our school had already identified the teaching of mathematics as a top priority for the year, and welcome the state math initiative.